



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1864.

The VERY REV. CHARLES GRAVES, D. D., President, in the Chair.

GEORGE V. DU NOYER, M. R. I. A., R. G. S. I., presented to the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, 99 Drawings from Original Sketches of Antiquities, in the counties of Westmeath, Longford, Meath, and King's County, to form Vol. VI. of similar donations; of these the following is the Catalogue:—

No. 1. Doorway of the church erected by St. Fechin at Fore, county of Westmeath; interior view. St. Fechin died A. D. 664.

No. 2. East window in the chancel of St. Fechin's church at Fore, showing thirteenth and probably sixteenth century work.

No. 3. Plan of the same church, showing the modern chancel, the date of which may be the thirteenth century, though modified in the sixteenth century, as is evident from the reconstruction of the east window.

No. 4. Proposed main doorway to the chapel of the Abbey of Fore. It would appear that this doorway, which is constructed in the west wall of a massive square tower placed at the west end of the chancel, was never completed, probably owing to some change of design in the construction of the abbey. There is no trace of its exterior semicircular arch in the interior portion of the doorway, while the simple roll-moulding which surrounds the doorway is left unfinished in the arch. The form of the doorway and that of the moulding is clearly of the thirteenth century.

No. 5. Capitals of cloister columns from the abbey at Fore. The style of the mouldings and the presence of a slender rib in the lower hollowed portion of the capital are all characteristic of the early English style, or that prevalent in the thirteenth century.

No. 6. Intercolumnation of some of the cloister arches from the abbey at Fore.

No. 7. View of the west gate of Fore, looking eastward.

No. 8. View of the same from the opposite direction.

No. 9. View of the east gate at Fore.

No. 10. Old font, built into the exterior of the wall of the Roman Catholic chapel at Fore.

No. 11. Monumental cross from the graveyard of St. Mary's church at Fore.

No. 12. Heraldic carving from a stone which appears to have formed the springing of one of the cloister arches at Fore Abbey; but now used as a headstone in the graveyard of St. Fechin's church. The device is a kite-shaped shield, on which is carved, in relief, two human arms, crossed, coupé at the shoulder, and clothed with a short "manche," which descends from the elbows; the right hand grasps the handle of a large cross-hilted dagger, the point of which extends beyond the top of the

shield, and on it is impaled a human head, of which the features are defaced; resting on the shield, and beneath the left side of the head, is an ornament like the rowel of a spur.

No. 13. View of the east window of the Anchorites' church at Fore.* This building stands on the slope of the hill, just above the ancient church of St. Fechin, and its erection would date at about the early part of the sixteenth century; it consists of a massive, low, square tower, having a small projection in its north-west angle to admit of circular stairs, which led from the nave of the church, or basement floor of the tower, to the room over the arch, which was capable of being used as a dwelling, and was provided with a fireplace in the south wall. On the exterior of the north wall of the church is a small stone tablet, bearing the following inscription, in raised Roman capitals:—

“THE RIGHT HONORABLE RICHARD NUGENT EARLE OF WESTMEATHE AT HIS OWN EXPENCES REBUILDED THIS CHAPLE AND CASTLE FOR THE BURYING PLACE AND PIOUS USE OF HIMSELF AND HIS SUCCESSORS ANNO DOMINI 1680.”

Above this, and carved in high relief, is an earl's coronet, resting on a winged griffin.

No. 14. Plan of the Anchorites' church at Fore, showing the position of the fireplace in the room above the arched chancel. It would appear that subsequent to the building of the tower the circular stairs were blocked up, and a doorway opened into this room in the wall over the chancel arch, access to which must then have been by a ladder from the nave of the church.

No. 15. Doorway of the very ancient church at Agharra,† in the county of Longford, near the village of Legan. This doorway is flat-headed, and quite Cyclopean in its character, being as beautifully and massively constructed as the doorways of this class which we find at Glendalough. The lintel measures six feet six inches in length, and some of the adjoining stones measure seven feet six inches in length. I am not aware that this very ancient church has ever been described by any antiquary.

No. 16. View of the central gable of the old church of Agharra, which was originally the east gable of the building, showing the insertion of a doorway and a window loop in it, in order to adapt the western or ancient portion of the church to the purpose of a dwelling-house; by this modification the chancel was available as a chapel for

[NOTES BY THE REV. DR. REEVES.]

* The Anker House at Fore.

See, for description, Vallancey's "Collectanea," vol. i., p. 63. See Harris' "Ware," vol. ii., p. 135.

† Agharra I take to be a phonetic form of *Echaradh*, which is thus mentioned in the "Calendar of Marian Gorman," and the "Martyrology of Donegal," at April 11:—"Aedh of Echaradh" (p. 101).

the neighbouring castle of Ardanragh—a building probably of the sixteenth century.

No. 17. East window of the same old church, showing the stone socket for the internal shutter to swing on.

No. 18. Small window loop in the south wall of the chancel of the same old church, the date of which is coeval with this portion of the building, and is probably of the sixteenth century.

No. 19. Plan of the same old church, showing the modern chancel, and the modifications of the original east gable. The walls of the ancient church are without foundations, but they rest on a rough basement or plinth of large flags. This peculiar mode of construction has been followed by the builders of the chancel, either from veneration or for convenience. A large flat-headed doorway in the north wall of the chancel allowed access to this portion of the building, while a similar doorway in the central gable allowed of communication with the ancient or western part of the building.

No. 20. Near Foxhall, county of Longford, and in the parish of Rathreagh (Ordnance Survey, Sheet 20), there is an ancient mound, in the centre of which stands what is called "The Caldragh Stone," of which this is a sketch. The monument in question, which is undoubtedly of great antiquity, consists of a block of stone, five feet in height, ten inches in breadth, flat at one side, and rounded on the other, and standing in a flat circular plinth; its apex, for something more than one foot, is fined off, and narrowed, or notched. This monument is evidently incomplete, and I feel disposed to believe that the shaft was intended to receive a cruciform head of wood, which rested on the notch at the top.

No. 21. Close to this small pillar is a flagstone, bearing the ornament here sketched; it consists of two circles, connected by a narrow band, the central portion of the former being ornamented by a Greek cross. The stone is broken in the middle, and I have no doubt but that when perfect there were three such circles engraved on it. This form of ornament, without the cross, is found on monuments of undoubted Pagan age in Ireland. *Vide* Vol. I., No. 14, of my "Antiquarian Sketches," where I have figured a slab of stone from the graveyard of Tully, in the county of Dublin, in which we find this triple circle connected by narrow bands, and which has been recognised as pre-Christian.

No. 22. View of the west gable of the old church at Feohran,* county

* *Foyran*, a parish in the extreme north of the county of Westmeath.

The Ordnance Survey (Westmeath, Sheet 1) marks "Church in Ruins, Graveyard," and "Bishop Hugh's Well (Tobar Aidain)."

The name of the church is written in Irish *Foibren* and *Faiobhran*.

The patron saint is thus commemorated, at Nov. 1, in the "Calendar of Marian Gorman" and the "Martyrology of Donegal":—"Aedh son of Roi, of Foibren."

The place is also noticed in the "Four Masters," at the year 754:—"Eochaidh son of Conall Meann, abbot of Faoibhran, died."

of Westmeath, showing the ancient masonry at the base of the wall, with the comparatively modern flat belfry, pierced for three bells, above it.

No. 23. View of the interior of the same church, which is said to have been dedicated to St. Edan, as a well bearing his name is close at hand. To the right of the view, in the south wall of the nave, is a very ancient window; the chancel arch is completely gone; beyond this, to the left of the view, is a portion of the east gable, with a small partition taken off the width of the chancel, to allow of a narrow flight of stairs, which conducted to the room over the arch of the chancel.

No. 24. Exterior view of the ancient window in the south wall of the nave of the same church. This feature is exceedingly interesting, as it shows the method adopted of closing the window with an external wooden shutter, a portion of the stone surrounding the ope having been cut away to receive it. It appears to me that in this and similar examples we have the origin of the external mouldings, and subsequent decorations of all our windows. At first these necessary adjuncts to buildings of stone were merely loops; and as they were made wider in process of time, the benefit of light and air was often counterbalanced by cold and wet, and it became necessary to close them externally by a shutter. A deep notch was therefore cut all round them to receive this construction; and this notch, after the introduction of glass in our churches and castles, was retained as an ornamental feature, and enlarged, modified in shape, and decorated as taste and architectural skill suggested.

No. 25. Interior view of the foregoing window, which shows that though the ope is triangular-headed externally, it is semicircular within—a feature which, I believe, is novel in windows of this class.

No. 26. Specimen of the masonry at the base of the south wall of the same old church, the character of which is quite Cyclopean, and will bear comparison with that of the churches at Glendalough.

No. 27. Plan of Feohran church, showing the more modern chancel, and the unique construction of the stairs to the room over this portion of the building.

Another place of the same name is mentioned in the "Four Masters," at 811, and placed by them in Crich Graicrighe, corresponding to the modern baronies of Coolavin in Sligo, and Castlereagh in Roscommon, in his note on which place Dr. O'Donovan confounds the two together, although in his *Index Locorum* he correctly has—

"Faebhran, or Faobhran, Foyran, in the barony of Fore, county of Westmeath, abbot of, 754;" and "Foibhren, in Crich-Graicrighe, 811."

Tober Aedhain is a well of cyclopean construction, the masonry of which is now entirely defaced.

Aedhan is the diminutive of *Aedh*, the latter being the form in the Calendars; and this is preserved in the English equivalent given for Tober Aedhain, in the Ordnance Map, "Bishop *Hugh's* Well."

Among the appropriations of the Abbey of Fore was the "Ecclesia S. Edani de Fayron." Archdall, "*Monast. Hib.*," p. 715.

In Bp. Anthony Dopping's "Register of Meath Diocese" (Marsh's Library), the parish is noticed thus:—"Favoran, *alias* Foyran, *alias* Finnah. The last form is now written Finnea, and is the name of a hamlet on the river which connects Lough Sheelin and Lough Kinale."

No. 28. East window of the abbey at Abbey Shrule, in the county of Longford. The masonry is exceedingly rude; and the design of the window, which is broad lancet, of two lights, is clearly late thirteenth century.

No. 29. Exterior view of the same window.

No. 30. Carved stone from the graveyard of the abbey church at Abbey Shrule. This relic is cruciform above, where it is ornamented by deeply cut lines, resembling a rude reaping-hook, with the handle upright. The shaft is decorated by a broad interlacing of four bands, extending down its entire length. This stone no doubt dates to a period long prior to the construction of the abbey adjoining, and may be a remnant of the original church, which rendered the locality sacred.

No. 31. Two views of the same stone.

No. 32. View of the square keep of the old castle of Newcastle, county of Westmeath, near Castlepollard, showing the entrance gateway to the outworks.

No. 33. Plans of the same old castle, showing the construction of the basement floor, and that above it. There are small angular turrets at the northern and western angles of the tower, formed by the prolongation of the side walls, and the platform of the parapet is continued through them. From the fact of the window loops and doorway in the interior of this tower being narrowed at the head by projecting bevelled stones, on which the flat head of each opening rests, I feel disposed to regard this tower as the work of the fourteenth century, probably during the reign of Edward III.

No. 34. View of the tower of Coolamber Castle, county of Longford, showing the postern gate on its western side. The remaining portion of the castle must have resembled a substantial house, the walls of which were about five feet thick, and the basement formed by a series of arches. This castle was erected by some of the Nugents of the family of the Barons of Westmeath.

35. Plan of the same castle.

No. 36. Plan of the old church of Coolamber. In a small grove, on the north side of the old road which passes by the castle of Coolamber, and close to the castle, on the east, there is a mutilated cross, on which is the following inscription, in raised Roman capitals:—

“I H S. Pray for the Souls of Thomas Nugent deced 12 ian 1688 and of Rose Tyrell his wife.”

In the graveyard of Coolamber old church there is a tombstone of the family of Farrell, or Farrall, the earliest date on which is 1799. The crest is a greyhound courant, with an earl's coronet beneath; then there is a lion courant, though, according to another tombstone of the same family, this animal should be rampant; and below all is the following Irish motto, deeply cut in Roman letters:—“COO BREI BE DERB,” which Mr. Hennessy translates, “the rushing or tearing hound.”

No. 37. Tower of the old church of Moylagh, county of Westmeath, between Fore and Oldcastle.

No. 38. Plan of the tower of Moylagh old church, showing how carefully it was adapted to form a residence, as it contains a fireplace and necessarium, and recess for a bed. The window loops have seats at either side, and access to the body of the church was by a flight of steps in the north wall of the tower. Probable date, the fourteenth century.

No. 39. Plan of the outworks of Carlanstown Castle, county of Westmeath, the date of which may be the sixteenth century. The tower at the north-west angle is singular, as the following illustrations will explain :—

No. 40. Plans of the basement and two upper floors of the tower at the north-west angle of the outworks at Carlanstown Castle.

No. 41. Loops for musketry from the same tower.

No. 42. View of the tower of Clonarneey old church, county of Westmeath.

No. 43. Interior view of the same tower, looking north, showing the window in the north wall, and the adjoining doorway to the necessarium. This tower was set apart for the residence of the ecclesiastic, as at Moylagh church.

No. 44. Plan of the tower of Clonarneey old church.

No. 45. View of the tower of Kilpatrick old church, county of Westmeath.

No. 46. Plan of the same tower, showing the alterations in the basement of the east wall by which the choir arch was built up, and a fireplace constructed over its crown to heat the apartment just below the arch of the tower. I believe the date of this building to be the fourteenth century.

No. 47. Doorway of Tagshinod old church, county of Longford, restored from fragments lying about.

No. 48. East window of the same old church, showing the introduction of the triquetra ornament at the head of the opening below the drip moulding.

No. 49. Plan of the same old church, the date of which may be the sixteenth century. The east gable has been propped up by a very massive buttress, at a comparatively recent date.

No. 50. Plan of Lacken old church, county of Westmeath, showing the more modern chancel and choir arch, and the small circular stairs to the west of the doorway, which probably led to the gallery, which was supported on the corbels at the eastern end of the nave. I think it probable that this church may date to the fourteenth century, if not earlier.

No. 51. Interior view of the tower of Tristernagh old church, county of Westmeath, looking west, and showing the two doorways to the body of the building, one in the north, and the other in the south side wall. The doorway in the west wall of the tower leads to the upper floor of that building, which was set apart and adapted for the dwelling place

of the ecclesiastic. The large opening over the arch supporting the east wall of the tower is on a level with the floor of this room, and I believe led to the space between the roof and the flat ceiling of the church.

No. 52. Plans of Tristernagh old church and tower; that of the upper floor of the latter shows the position of the fireplace and the necessarium; that portion of the west wall over the stairs, and the recess in the same wall, close to the south angle, have small spaces or turrets over them, marked by dotted lines on the plan.

No. 53. Plan of the old church at Lickblaw, near Castlepollard. This building, which consists of nave and chancel, having the doorway in the south wall, is not of older date than the fifteenth century.

No. 54. East window of the same church.

No. 55. Plan of Morning Castle, county of Longford. This building, which is a square tower of massive proportions, has been mutilated from time to time by the systematic removal of all the quoin stones to near the summit, and all the cut stones or casings of the doors and windows. So completely shaken is the whole tower by this spoliation, that I should not be surprised to hear of its fall in a short time, especially during weather which would be alternately wet and freezing.

No. 56. Plan of Skurlockstown Castle, county of Westmeath, near Collinstown.

No. 57. Plan of the old church of Moat Farrel, county of Longford. Near this ruin is the Moat of Farrel, on which once stood the castle residence of the O'Farrall or O'Farrell family. There is a tradition preserved in connexion with this family and that of the O'Reillys and the Edgeworths, which may be worth preserving; I believe that it is founded on truth, and I know it is recognised as such by the family of the Edgeworths. Some time about the early part of the seventeenth century the Farralls and the O'Reillys owned large possessions on the eastern borders of the county of Longford; and as the country was in a very disturbed and unsettled state, the O'Farralls, trusting to what they believed their superior interest and power, devised a plan by which they might gain possession of the property of the neighbouring O'Reillys. On a stated occasion they invited the O'Reillys to a grand banquet at their castle of Moat Farrall, and arranged the meeting so that each O'Farrall had an O'Reilly placed by his side at the table. At a given signal, during the progress of the feast, the O'Farralls stabbed each his neighbour, so that not one of the O'Reillys left the banquet hall alive. Their success, however, was of short duration; for scarcely had they seized the territory of the O'Reillys when the English Government sent a strong force to punish such an atrocity, and the whole of the O'Farrall property was confiscated, and bestowed on an English officer, named Edgeworth, who was instrumental in the punishment of the guilty clan; and since that period the Edgeworths have retained possession of the estate.

No. 58. Plan of Mulchan's old church, county of Westmeath. This

is the burying place of a branch of the Ogle family, and a tombstone there bears the following inscription:—

“Nicholas and Abigail eldest son and daughter of Nicholas Ogle of Discertally gent. departed this life the eighth of July and the second of August the year above said (1682).”

No. 59. View of the “Minstrel’s Grave,” with Ross Castle and Crover Castle, with part of Lough Sheelin in the distance. I heard the following interesting legend relating to this locality, and I transcribe it from my notebook, as I jotted it down shortly after the recital:—“Can you tell me,” said I to an old man, named O’Reilly, who resides on the spot, and who was passing along the byeroad leading to Ross Castle, “is that cross, standing on the summit of that mound of stones, placed in an ancient graveyard?” This I said, pointing to a small Calvary cross within half a mile of the castle. “No, Sir,” said he, “it is not; no one was ever buried there but a gentleman and a lady, and they were lovers; we call it ‘the Minstrel’s Grave,’ for he was a great musician, and she was the daughter of the Black Baron, who lived in Ross Castle—but I may as well tell you the whole story, and it is as true as life. It was in the time of the great trouble that the Black Baron Nugent lived in the Castle of Ross.” “What trouble do you mean?” said I. “Sure, Sir, I mean the *great war* with the Catholics in the time of King Charles, and it lasted for ten years.” “The rebellion of 1641?” “True enough, Sir,” said he; “and the country had neither law or peace for all that time. We call it ‘the great trouble.’ Well, Sir, the Black Baron Nugent had a lovely daughter, and one day she went boating on Lough Sheelin; and when she passed near the castle of Crover, which you see standing on that little island in the lake, she heard some one playing music and singing most delightful. She ordered the boatman to land her at the castle. Now, she was a Protestant; and though the castle was owned by one of the O’Reillys, who was a Catholic, and though there was no good blood between him and the Black Baron, who was a tyrant of a man, as I’ll tell you, yet the Lady Nugent was so kind and charitable, and so lovely, that all the country round was very fond of her, and would do anything to please her. Well, Sir, Lady Nugent looked into the castle, and there she saw an officer of the Catholics, who had been badly wounded, and who had fled to hide in the castle of Crover. He was lying on a sofa, very weak and pale, and playing on a harp and singing, so sad and sorrowful, that the Lady Nugent took great pity on him, and fell in love with him. His name was Irwin, and he was a colonel in the army of the great O’Neill, and had just come from abroad in Spain somewhere, to fight for the ould religion, and small blame to him. Well, Sir, Lady Nugent used to go every day to the castle to attend the wounded officer; but at last she found she could not be with him often enough when the summer had passed, as she had to cross a couple of miles of the lake, so she had a house built for him in the thick woods on the

shore, under Ross Castle, unknownst to her father, the Black Baron, and she nursed him there till he died. Then it was that the Black Baron knew of his daughter's love for the rebel officer, and he felt great grief to see how she pined and sickened at the loss of her lover. To gratify her wishes, and in some way lessen her great affliction, he allowed her to have the body of her lover buried on the top of the mound where you see the cross, just in sight of her own window in the castle. Not long after Lady Nugent died of grief, and her last request was that she should be buried in the same grave with him whom she had so tenderly loved, so that in death at least they might be united; and that is why the cross is placed over the Minstrel's Grave. Now, Sir, I must tell you about the Black Baron, and how he died. He was a great tyrant, and a wicked man, and he had all the law of the country to himself; whatever he liked should be done, and there was no one to check him or punish him. He used to hang the poor people for nothing, if he thought they vexed him. One day, when he rode into the village of Finnea,* he passed the cottage of a poor woman, and he heard her crying and moaning, and he asked what ailed her? She told him that a beggarman from Connaught had asked her for a piece of the wheaten cake which she had been baking at the fire; and when she refused him, he took the half of it by force, and had gone away. The Baron, having learned the description of the man and the road he had taken, set spurs to his horse, and soon overtook him, when he at once had him hanged on the nearest tree. Well, Sir, this poor man had two brothers, better off than himself; and when they heard of how the Black Baron had murdered their brother, they determined to revenge themselves, and arranged the following plan of carrying it into execution:— Having heard that the Black Baron always wore a long red cloak, and rode a white horse, they waited for a fair day at Finnea; and having armed themselves with a pistol, and procured a fresh horse's skin; they went to the fair; as they were passing up the street, they heard great lamentations in a house near hand; and, having entered it, they found a woman in tears, and greatly distressed. 'What ails you, my good woman,' said one of the brothers; 'why are you crying so bitterly?' 'Oh, sure, and is not the Black Baron going to hang my husband, because he is not pleased with the way the poor man shod one of his horses this morning; and has he not sent off for some of his murdering people to come here and make me a widow?' 'Whisht your crying, my poor woman,' said the brothers, 'there will nothing happen to your husband; just give us a drink of milk, as the day is warm, and keep up your heart.' The woman gave the boys a bowl of cream, and they left the house; they then took the road to Ross Castle, and, sure enough, they soon saw the red cloak and white horse of the Baron, who

* Finnea in the "Four Masters" is written (at 1330) *Fiodh an-atha*, "Wood of the Ford." In the early Taxations it is called *Faueran*.

was coming to the fair. As good luck would have it, he was alone; for he had sent word to the castle that some of his men should meet him at Finnea to hang the blacksmith. 'Now, then,' said one brother to the other, 'do you keep silent, and watch your time, while I try to drag away the horse's skin from you, and do you keep a tight hold of it.' Just as the Baron rode up, the brothers began their mock quarrel. 'Oh, musha,' said the one who was pulling at the skin, 'and is not the country come to a pretty state, when a man may be robbed in this way on the high road! Is there no law or justice to be had anywhere for an honest man, who pays his money for what he wants?' The Baron at this reined up his horse, and inquired the cause of quarrel. 'Sure, my lord,' said the brother who was tugging at the raw hide, 'did I not buy this horse's skin from that fellow there at the fair, and now he stops me on the road, and wants to take it back, and he has my money for it.' The Baron was angry; and, leaning over his horse, he was about to dismount to enforce justice, when the other brother placed the pistol to his body and gave him a mortal wound; he fell from his horse, and was then dispatched by a shot from one of his own holster pistols. That, Sir," said old O'Reilly, "was the end of the wicked Black Baron Nugent."

No. 60. View of Carrick Castle, county of Westmeath, near Ballylinalack.

No. 61. Plans of Carrick Castle. This building is comparatively modern, probably erected at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and appears to be the last of the castellated dwelling-houses.

This completes the sketches of antiquities in the counties of Westmeath, Meath, and Longford. I append to them, however, some sketches of bones and teeth, &c., from the peaty mud of the east shore of Lough Killeen, in the county of Longford, three miles due west of Granard, which I assisted in picking up during the month of August last, when the lake was unusually low. These are figured in sheets Nos. 62, 63, 64, and 65, and consist of the jaw of a horse, that of the red deer, with bones and teeth of the same animals, and of the ox, and a human under jaw of large proportions. In connexion with all these I found the skull of the *Bos longifrons*, the frontal bone of which seems to have been fractured by some blunt instrument.

No. 66. On the margin of the same lake, and driven into the stump of a large red fir tree, I discovered a staple of white metal, probably that known as white bronze—a mixture of tin with a small alloy of copper, sufficient to give it hardness. This is merely my conjecture. The tree stump into which this staple was driven is most usually covered by the lake to the depth of five or six feet, but the drought of last summer completely exposed this and the adjoining shore. I had the staple cut out of the tree stump with some of the wood attached to it, and I have great pleasure in presenting this singular antique to the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. The tin which is found in combination with our bronze weapons and implements was doubtless ob-

tained either from Cornwall, or from St. Michael's Mount, the ancient Cassiterides; and in mediæval times, chalices and patens, and other vessels and utensils connected with ecclesiastical uses, were often made of pure tin.

The following series of ancient Irish inscribed tomb slabs are from original sketches, taken at Clonmacnoise, in the King's County. In availing myself of the very limited time at my disposal for consulting such records as the "Annals of the Four Masters," I have, I believe, been able to identify some of these tomb slabs as being commemorative of people whose names are recorded in these "Annals."

No. 67. The first tomb slab is that which was close to St. Kieran's Well, half a mile distant from Clonmacnoise, on the Shannon Bridge road; it bears the name of Fechtach—Op vo Fechtach. In the "Annals of the Four Masters" I find the death of Fachtna, lector of Clonmacnoise, recorded at the year 1024.

No. 68. Tomb slab, bearing the name Maelfinnia—Op vo Maelfinnia. There is another tombstone, from Clonmacnoise, engraved by Dr. Petrie in his work on the "Round Towers," at p. 325, which bears the same name, and which he believes to be commemorative of the abbot of that name, son of Spellan, whose death is recorded in the "Chronicon Scotorum" at the year 992, and in the "Annals of the Four Masters" at 991. The ornamentation on the crosses of the two slabs is very different; in that before you, the arms of the cross end in stirrups, formed by the looping of the double line which makes the ornament. Are we to suppose that there were two abbots of Clonmacnoise of the same name? and if so, what date are we to assign to the tomb slab I have figured?

No. 69. Tombstone of Moelpatric—Op vo Moelpatric.

No. 70. Tombstone of Daniel—Op vo Daineill. I find that a *Daniel* was abbot of Glendalough, and died 866. Could he have been buried at Clonmacnoise, as being a more fashionable place of interment?

No. 71. Tombstone of Brigit—Op vo Brigid—apparently of equal antiquity with the former.

No. 72. Fragment of another ancient tombstone, the usual abbreviation, Op . vo . (pray for), being surmounted by two small serpent-like animals.

No. 73. Tombstone bearing this inscription—Op ar Gillaglarain, A prayer on Gillaglarain. This slab was discovered by Mr. Molloy, the farmer who resides close to the ruins, only a few days before my visit to the place, on the 9th of April, 1863.

No. 74. Tombstone of Maelmhichil—Op vo Maelmhichil.

No. 75. Tombstone of Mailcaimghin (Mulkevin)—Op vo Mailcēm—with a contraction over the last letter. It is recorded in the "Annals of the Four Masters," that Maelcaimhghin, son of Scannlan, abbot of Teach Mochua (Timahoe), died A. D. 928, and was buried at Clonmacnoise: this is doubtless his tombstone.

No. 76. Tombstone, with the inscription, Op vo Bonuiz.

No. 77. Tombstone, with the inscription, Op vo Maprtanan, or

Martanan (diminutive of Martin, "Little Martin"). An abbot of Clonmacnoise of this name is recorded to have died A. D. 867, and I see every reason to believe that this is his tombstone.

No. 78. Tombstone with this inscription—Op do Fogartach m̄ bpoénaín, or Fogarty, the son of Broenan.

No. 79. Tombstone with the name Cholumban—Op do Chollumban.

No. 80. Tombstone with the name Comgan—Op do Comgan. I find in the "Annals of the Four Masters" that a Comghan Foda was an archbishop at Clonmacnoise, and his death is recorded at the year 868. We must, I suppose, accept this as his tombstone.

No. 81. A mutilated tombstone, of which only the concluding part of the inscription remains; the letters are Elchlapan.

No. 82. Tombstone with the inscription Op do Cellach. The "Annals of the Four Masters" record the death of a person of this name at the year 904; and doubtless this is his tombstone.

No. 83. Tombstone with the following inscription—Ocar huppine, i. e. Opoic ap huppine.

No. 84. Tombstone having the following inscription—Op ap Macl-quiapain, with a cross and smaller circle, of precisely the same type as that of St. Cronan's at Roserea, and of which I have given an illustration in Vol. II., Nos. 55, 56, and 57, of my "Antiquarian Sketches."

No. 85. A tomb slab, of apparently similar age, from the similarity of the form of cross engraved on it, and bearing simply the name Ronan, i. e. (stone) of Ronan. I find that there were two abbots of Clonmacnoise of this name—the death of one being recorded at the year 759, and that of the other at 842. From the form of the cross, I am inclined to suppose this the tombstone of the latter, and therefore of the ninth century.

No. 86. An unfinished tombstone slab, without an inscription—the engraved lines representing a long-armed cross, with a small circle at their intersection.

No. 87. A small slab, on which the St. Cronan cross is inclosed in a square, thus resembling the ornamentation on some of our small cumdachs, or sacred boxes for holding relics. Above the cross are the letters Enbuñcumbenīg.

No. 88. Another slab, bearing a similar cumdach cross.

No. 89. Another slab, of the same type, with the letters Chlich above the box-like ornament.

No. 90. Part of a small quern-stone, with a cumdach cross engraved on it, but no inscription.

No. 91. A small slab, with a circle inclosing four Greek crosses, each inclosed in a small circle.

No. 92. A slab, bearing the name Macltohan Epp (*episcopus*). I could not discover any record of a bishop of this name having been buried at Clonmacnoise.

No. 93. Another small slab, with a cross, and bearing the letters Omuirgup deic. To all appearance this inscription is perfect.

No. 94. The last sketch of the Clonmacnoise tombstones is that of one which bears evident marks of being of much more recent date than any of the foregoing. The form of the stone is somewhat coffin-shaped, and the ornamentation at its foot has quite a twelfth century look. The inscription is as follows:—*Roin . hu topnon.*

Nos. 95-7. On the completion of the sketches of the Clonmacnoise tombstones I was struck by the fact that the letters presented many varieties of form; and in the following three illustrations I have given each variety; thus we see that the

Letter	Forms.	Letter	Forms.
a	has 15	l	has 8
b	— 6	m	— 2
c	— 5	n	— 5
d	— 7	o	— 5
e	— 9	p	— 1
f	— 3	q	— 1
g	— 5	r	— 16
h	— 9	s	— 2
i	— 2	t	— 6

It is not improbable that by the form of these letters the dates of many of the tombstones might be roughly estimated, at least by centuries, as we know that the Irish form of letter varied from century to century, from the ancient Roman or Uncial character to the more angular and current form of the modern scribe.

I conclude this collection of ancient Irish inscribed tombstones by sketches of two from Arranmore, in the Bay of Galway:—

No. 98. The inscription on this slab consists of the following letters: *Op . up McInach*, and I found it lying near some ruins at the village of Onurcht.

No. 99. The tomb slab of St. Breacan, from the old church dedicated to the Holy Ghost. According to Dr. Petrie, this saint died in the sixth century.

Mr. SAMUEL FERGUSON, Q. C., read the following paper:—

ACCOUNT OF OGHAM INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CAVE AT RATHEROGHAN,
COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

THE principal remains at Rathcroghan, formerly the residence of the provincial Kings of Connaught, are indicated on sheets 21 and 22 of the Ordnance Survey Map of the county of Roscommon, and have been described in some detail by O'Donovan in a note to his translation of the "Annals of the Four Masters," at A. D. 1223, and more fully in letters preserved among the MS. materials for the intended "Ordnance Survey Memoir," and now deposited in the Library of the Academy (14 F. 8, p. 191, *et seq.*).

Among these remains may be noticed on the map—310 yards north-west of the ancient sepulchral enclosure called Relig-na-Ree, or the Graveyard of the Kings—a spot marked with the name *Owneygat*, that is, the